TOTAL CAPACITY OF STORAGE IN DAMS IN KUTCH AND SAURASHTRA

3492. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 per cent water to the total capacity of storage is filled in 19 dams in Kutch and Saurashtra during the last monsoon covering almost one and half crore population;

(b) whether Government would inquire into it that all above dams meant for irrigation are now almost diverted for drinking water purpose and has caused tremendous damage to agriculture;

(c) whether Government would inquire into the fact that cattle breeders are migrating from Kutch and other areas towards South Gujarat; and

(d) whether Government in view of recurring conditions of scarcity in major parts of drought prone area of Kutch and Saurashtra would instruct Government of Gujarat to concentrate only on completing the dam and main canal of Sardar Sarovar Project and not divert the resources on distributierf, cement lining, power etc. at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

IRRIGATION PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA

3493. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major and medium irrigation projects in the country vis-a-vis in Maharashtra;

(b) what is the expected irrigation potential to be created by the completion of these projects;

(c) what is the present status of these projects ; and

(d) the steps taken to accelerate pace of completion of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) As at the beginning of VIII Plan out of 158 major, 226 medium and 95 Extension | Renovation | Modernisation (ERM) on-going irrigation projects in the country, 32 major, 53 medium and 6 ERM projects arc in Maharashtra.

(b) Against ultimate irrigation potential of 248.12 lakh hectares of the ongoing projects in the country, ultimate irrigation potential of the projects in Maharashtra is 21.75 lakh hectares.

(c) Against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 65092 crores of the above projects in the country, the latest estimated cost of he projects in Maharashtra is Rs. 7340 crores. While the expenditure incurred on these projects in the country till March, 1992 is Rs. 25013 crores, an amount of Rs. 3120 crores has been spent on the projects in Maharashtra.

(d) The strategy for VIII Plan lays emphasis on completion of on-going irrigation projects. The Planning Coromis-sioi has started earmarking of outlays on important projects.